



RALPH T. GRANT JR., Ph.D.
COUNCILMAN-AT-LARGE
NEWARK, N. J. 07102

CITY HALL OFFICE
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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Ralph T. Grant, Jr. was first elected to the Newark Municipal Council as a Councilman-at-Large in 1978 and has been re-elected in 1982, 1986, and 1990. He served as President of the Municipal Council during his second and third terms in office.

Dr. Grant was born in Charleston, South Carolina, where he attended elementary and high school. He holds two undergraduate degrees from Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina, a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Science. The At-Large Councilman also holds a doctorate in Public Administration from Union Graduate School in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The Councilman is a veteran of the civil rights war of the 1950s and 1960s, where he served on many programs with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Prior to his first election to the Newark Municipal Council, Dr. Grant served as Executive Director of various city agencies and programs, including the Newark Human Rights Commission, the Action Now Citizen's Complaint Agency, the Summer Program for Economically Disadvantaged Youth (SPEDY), the Urban Youth Foundation, and Total Employment & Manpower (TEAM).

Councilman Grant has served as principal of a private school, and as Professor of Public Administration at Shaw University; St. John's University in Queens, New York; Fairleigh Dickinson University in Teaneck, New Jersey; and serves as Distinguished Professor of Management at New Jersey Institute of Technology in Newark, New Jersey. He is also a Graduate Faculty Member in the Public Administration Department at Rutgers University in Newark, New Jersey.

The Councilman has served on Governor Thomas Kean's Property Tax Assessment Study Commission, the Newark Economic Development Corporation (NEDC) and Renaissance Newark, Inc. He is the former president of the United Community Corporation (UCC) and the Newark Pre-School Council, and has held membership on several Boards of Directors, including Concerned Citizen's of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ). He is also the first black man to be elected as president of a Jaycee Chapter.

Councilman Grant currently holds membership in the NAACP and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He is the host of "The Grant Report," a local cable television program that deals with the issues facing the City of Newark.

Councilman-at-Large Ralph T. Grant, Jr. resides at 29 Wilbur Avenue in Newark's South Ward with his wife, Dr. Gwendolyn Goldsby Grant, a psychologist, therapist, and author, and their three children, Ralph III, Sally-Ann, and Rebecca.



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FOR RELEASE TO: BARBARA KUKLA, "NEWARK THIS WEEK"
STAR LEDGER
FROM: COUNCILMAN AT LARGE RALPH T. GRANT, JR.
CAMPAIGN STATEMENT 1994

Throughout my tenure as Councilman at Large and and twice as Council President for the City of Newark, I have sponsored many pieces of legislation to improve the lives of City residents. I am also very proud of the residents of Newark because they have become increasingly more informed and have proven their ability as experienced consumers to monitor and weigh the benefits of allowing a public official to serve in office. This helps to keep us as public officials on our toes and raises the overall level of benefit the community derives from our serving public office.

Based on positive feedback from residents across the City, I am happy that my initiatives have had a real and meaningful impact on improving the conditions under which we live, work and socialize. As always, my campaign centers around issues that are at the heart of concern for every Newark resident, with emphasis on employment, education, housing, drug abuse and crime prevention.

Unemployment breeds crime and, for the sake of our youth, one of my greatest efforts has been the advocacy and development of initiatives which lead to increased employment for our residents--men and women with families as well as youth who need meaningful, positive life and work experiences. To that end, I will continue to advocate and push for commitment from our business community to each provide new employment opportunities for Newark residents. During the summer months when young people desperately need positive direction, I believe "one job from one business" is not too much to ask for the residents who offer support to the business community on a daily basis.

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Additionally, I continue to work toward developing our young people. While in office, I have introduced over 1,800 of our children to Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina and serve as a class mentor to youngsters at Harriet Tubman School.

I have also introduced strong measures to ensure other important improvements, such as adequate insurance protection, bus safety, and meaningful involvement for senior citizens. I have and continue to fight hard against homelessness and poverty in our communities and work toward providing a better environment in all areas of the City.

Over the past several years, I have worked to bring a new consciousness to City government. This consciousness has translated into tangible benefits to the community. For example, my key legislation mandating smoke and fire alarms is credited with saving residents' lives. My initiative for armed security for high rises placed tenent security on top priority for the first time in the City. I have also voted affirmatively for special police to protect citizens and enhance our Newark Police Department.

My advocacy for bus safety for senior citizens has led to fewer accidents, and my proposal for 24 hour decentralized bill payment stations has led to commendations from Mayor James for its ability to make these tasks more convenient to residents.

My anti car-theft forums were instrumental in uniting key law enforcement officials and community residents, to make an impact on the number of cars stolen daily. In addition, literally thousands upon thousands have attended the anti-drug rallies I sponsor on a continual basis, with many signing up to assist in formal efforts to fight the drug war. This is the first time in the City of Newark that so many youth have rallied together in a meaningful way, without incident. As a result, some of the young people who may have been borderline are now rethinking their involvement in the streets, a fact that makes me feel proud, and for which parents have personally thanked me.

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In the senior citizen community I have become known as "the man who takes them seriously." I have appointed several seniors to boards and commissions, based on a sincere and strong belief in their wisdom, dedication and abilities. With seniors in mind, I am constantly pushing for federal legislation which will protect their insurance coverage, in the elderly years. I also put together plans for a drug detoxification facility in Newark, which would add strength to on going rehabilitation efforts for residents in need.

Many concepts some residents may think of as "new" in our City, are actually spinoffs of projects I started. For example, as early as 1980 I was advocating for supermarket chains, and actively encouraging owners to move to inner-city Newark. This is now happening. Before it was trendy, I knew that low-rise housing was the way to go, and began developing these units for inner-city residential areas. I was also instrumental in introducing legislation that resulted in 102 low-income rental units which are presently being constructed, and another 137 which are on the books. Incredibly, rents in these beautiful units will not exceed \$280 per month. I also created an Architectural and Engineering club for aspiring students at NJIT, which helps them get through this rigorous career choice.

My "Fathers Against Drugs" organization is known across the United States, and has served as a model program for other anti-drug efforts, nationwide.

Overall, I am proud of the record I have brought to the City. I have always insisted that Newark cannot be the tale of two cities, one with gleaming office towers and the other with residents living in substandard conditions. I am working to ensure that the revitalization that goes on in Newark includes everyone, in a fair and consistent way. If re-elected to the Municipal Council, I will continue and expand my initiatives to this end.